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THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF ELY.

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

1951

by

K. S. MAURICE-SMITH,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ELY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1951

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1951.

1. STATISTICS:

During 1951 the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my Report.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

(a) Ambulances.- Two ambulances are stationed at Ely, both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council. One is for infectious diseases and the other for non-infectious diseases.

The St. John Ambulance at Littleport has also been available throughout the year. This Ambulance works under an agency agreement with the County Council. Members of the Littleport Ambulance and Nursing Divisions man and drive this vehicle. Their efforts are very much appreciated in the District, and their record is an excellent one.

(b) Nursing and Clinic Arrangements.- These are the same as for previous years. The District Nurses continue to maintain their fine record of service.

(c) The Isolation Hospital.- The Isolation Hospital is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board. The District owes much to the Matron, Miss A. Pickersgill, S.R.N., and her staff, who are untiring in their efforts to maintain an efficient, happy hospital.

3. WATER:

(a) (i) The supply for the District is drawn from two chalk wells at West Row. Water supplies of sufficient quantity and sufficient quality have been maintained during the twelve months under review by the Water Engineer and his Staff.

(ii) The faulty section of rising main at Soham has now been repaired.

(iii) The whole of the rising mains are watched carefully and continually by the Water Engineer.

(iv) There have been no major breakdowns during the year.

(b) (i) The Chloramine Plant has been in use continually and has proved satisfactory. The chloramine process permits of the treatment of the water at the source.

(ii) Four chemical and bacteriological examinations were made during the year, and proved satisfactory.

(iii) No contamination was found during the year.

(iv) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

(v) With reference to the general supply to houses in the district, the table of figures given in my Report for 1950 approximate very closely to the present position.

4. SEWAGE:

(a) Generally speaking, there is little of importance on which to report or comment; the national economic situation preventing the further development of the already prepared outline plans for all parishes to which I made reference last year. These remarks also apply to my hopes expressed in my previous Report with reference to Sutton and Witcham.

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4. SEWAGE (Contd.)

(b) For the new housing estate in Sutton, plans for temporary Sewage Disposal were regretfully submitted by the Council, and, no doubt, equally regretfully agreed to by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. It would, of course, make housing conditions intolerable, if the building of houses had to be deferred until such time as the national economy permitted of permanent disposal schemes being carried out.

5. HOUSING:

Permanent Housing:

Sites:

In hand and not under development at 1.1.1951	4
Acquired during 1951	3
	7
Taken into development during 1951	4
In hand and not under development as at 31.12.51.	3

Dwellings:

No. covered by contracts placed - and not commenced or in course of erection - as at 1.1.1951	-
No. covered by contracts placed during 1951	84
	84
No. under construction as at 1.1.1951	50
No. commenced during 1951	54
	104

	Bungalows 2-bedrooms	Semi-bungs. 2-bedrooms	Houses 3-bedrooms	Total
No. completed during 1951	16	10	30	56
No. under construction at 31.12.1951				
Stage of Completion %				
76 to 99	2	-	4	
51 to 75	10	-	20	
26 to 50	6	-	-	
To 25	4	-	2	
	22		26	48
				104

4. HOUSING (Contd.)

Dwellings:

No. not commenced as at 31.12.51.	30
No. let during 1951 to members of agricultural population	17

Private Enterprise:

Permanent Housing:

No. of unfinished dwellings licensed or approved as at 1.1.1951	12
No. licensed or approved during 1951	11
	23

No. of dwellings completed during 1951	12
No. in course of erection as at 31.12.51	10
No. not commenced as at 31.12.51	1
	23

Whereas the past twelve months has seen an increase in the number of houses completed and commenced in the District, the number of old buildings still remains high. A continuance of the Council's past policy of making Demolition Orders, as and when possible, is gradually making some slight improvement in the area and I earnestly hope this policy will be maintained.

6. SCHOOLS:

No comments this year - but reference back to previous years' Reports should be made.

7. MILK:

In my Report for 1950, I drew attention to the possibility of trouble arising as a consequence of much of the milk in the District not being heat-treated. The relevance of my remarks can be judged from the fact that in November some milk containing tubercular infection was found in one village during the course of routine sampling by the County Inspector. I immediately put a Stop-Order on the herd affected and this was not removed until proof had been obtained that the infection in the herd had been got rid of.

I am hopeful that as a consequence of this unfortunate event, more retailers will take to heart my remarks about "heat treatment" of milk.

To those retailers who now supply heat treated milk, I again offer my congratulations.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

(a) 161 notifications of infectious diseases were received.

The total of 161 cases is made up as follows :

Measles	41
Whooping Cough	86
Scarlet Fever	6
Pneumonia	6
Infective Hepatitis	10
Glandular Fever	2
Erysipelas	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Sonne Dysentery	5
	161

(b) Disinfection of premises, etc., is regularly carried out in cases of notifiable disease; also when infection is reported, or requests are received for any special reasons. Clothing and bedding are disinfected at the Isolation Hospital, by arrangement with the East Anglian Hospital Board.

It is interesting to note that the last established case of Diphtheria was in 1945 and there has been no death in the District from this disease since 1944.

(c) Tuberulosis

14 new cases were notified during the year. After making the necessary adjustment, there are the following numbers on the Register :

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
Male	35	9
Female	18	11

Compared with 1950, the figures shew an increase of 1 case made up as follows :

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
Male	1	-
Female	-	-

9. FOOD:

I would again appeal to all those connected with the handling of food to exercise the utmost care in the carrying out of their duties. The Sanitary Inspector and I will always willingly give our help if request is made.

Personal care and hygiene of a very high order is imperative.

10. FACTORIES ACT:

Such factories as are in the District are inspected periodically and any necessary action is taken.

11. MISCELLANEOUS:

(i) Moveable Dwellings - Caravans:

This problem still continues to give me much concern. Some form of control and supervision appears to me to be essential. I am continuing to watch this question with attention.

I am not, of course, referring necessarily to the "one-night-holiday-maker" but to the peculiar type of moveable dwelling which seems to be the normal abode of many of the roaming additional land workers.

(ii) Rodent Control:

The Sanitary Inspector, with the assistance of the Rodent Officer (ordinary English - Rat Catcher) has inspected 435 premises, 377 of these required treatment, and 373 were actually dealt with. A good job of work.

12. PERSONAL:

I am very grateful to my colleagues from the Clerk downwards (or across) for all the help and assistance I have received from them during the twelve months under review.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

K. S. MAURICE-SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health,
Ely Rural District Council.